



## CO2 Oil Injections Boost Oil Recovery Efficiency

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### Improvement in Oil Recovery

Typically, primary oil recovery uses natural underground pressure to bring oil to the surface. Since this method proves to be relatively inefficient, securing only 10 percent of an oilfield's reserves, water flooding has become a popular means to boost this efficiency. This recovery process has increased the recovery of oil by up to 40 percent. However, a new method of Carbon Dioxide Sequestration has the potential to improve an oilfields oil recovery by an impressive 60 percent.

### Weyburn Carbon Dioxide Sequestration Project

The Weyburn Carbon Dioxide Sequestration Project successfully sequestered five million tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) into the Weyburn Oilfield in Saskatchewan, Canada. It is an experimental project that involves injecting carbon dioxide into the oilfield. Not only does this increase pressure in the reserve to bring oil to the surface, it also allows the environmentally harmful CO2 gases to be permanently stored beneath the Earth's surface. Using this knowledge, the Weyburn Oilfield will produce an additional 130 million barrels of oil, and sequester as much as 30 million tons of CO2.

### Key Benefits

This process offers major benefits for oil recovery as well as environmental protection. By utilizing this procedure in Western Canada's oilfields, there would be a reduction of CO2 levels equivalent to pulling 200 million cars off the road for one year. If this technique was to be used worldwide, one-third to one-half of the carbon dioxide emissions that are leaked into the atmosphere could be eliminated.

Moreover, Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR), as this technique is called, has the potential to recover billions of additional barrels of Canadian oil. It will extend the oilfields life for decades.

### Opportunity for U.S. Exporters

Huge potential exists for American firms in Canada's oil industry. American companies are encouraged to

take advantage of this great market potential. Firms involved in Oil and Gas field machinery and services of all types, pipes, valves and fittings, refinery equipment, mining equipment, construction equipment, building materials, safety and security equipment and environmental control equipment all demonstrate good export potential to the Canadian market.

### Canadian Industry Facts

Canada is the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer of natural gas and 9<sup>th</sup> largest producer of crude oil. Its oilsands contain 175 billion barrels of proven reserves, second only to Saudi Arabia. In 2004, investment reached \$23 billion, 80 percent of which was spent in the province of Alberta.

Canadian producers are drilling at record levels – 24,000 wells in 2004 and an anticipated 25,000 in 2005. Industry estimates are that the production from oilsands alone will at least triple to over 3 million bpd by 2015. Planned energy investments in Alberta exceed \$100 billion in the next 15-20 years.

### U. S. Business Center

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**We welcome your inquiries!**

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